

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A thin film filter for dense wavelength division multiplexing, the thin film filter comprising:

a glass substrate; and

a film stack mounted on the glass substrate, the film stack comprising a plurality of cavities; wherein

each cavity comprises a first mirror layer, a second mirror layer, and a spacer layer arranged therebetween, both of the first mirror layer and the second mirror layer including low refractive index thin films and high refractive index thin films, and wherein each of the high refractive index thin films comprising comprises a composition of indium-tin oxide, having high refractive index such that a substantially different refractive index between the low refractive index thin films and the high refractive index thin films is formed.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The thin film filter as described in claim 1, wherein the substrate is made of material selected from the group consisting of glass, quartz, optical plastic, silicon, and germanium, the film filter further comprises a coupling film, and the coupling film adjoins an adjacent cavity of the plurality of cavities.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The thin film filter as described in claim 1, wherein the film stack comprises a plurality of cavities, the coupling film is made of a material having a relative low refractive index.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The thin film as described in claim 43, wherein the spacer layer has an optical thickness of an integer times one-quarter of a central wavelength of a pass bandwidth of the thin film filter.

Claim 7 (original): The thin film filter as described in claim 1, wherein a range of the composition of indium-tin oxide is from 20% indium oxide plus 80% tin oxide to 17% indium oxide plus 83% tin oxide.

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Claim 8 (currently amended): The thin film filter as described in claim 51, wherein the low refractive index thin films comprise silicon dioxide (SiO_2) or aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3).

Claim 9 (currently amended): The thin film filter as described in claim 58, wherein the low refractive index thin films and the high refractive index thin films are alternately deposited one on another.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The thin film filter as described in claim 59, wherein each of the low refractive index thin films and each of the high refractive index thin films has an optical thickness equal to one-quarter of a central wavelength of a pass bandwidth of the thin film filter.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A thin film filter for dense wavelength division multiplexing, the thin film filter comprising:

a glass substrate; and

a film stack mounted on the glass substrate, the film stack comprising five cavities, each cavity having a plurality of layer, and each layer comprising low refractive index thin films and high refractive index thin films; wherein

a) each of the high refractive index thin films comprises a composition of indium-tin oxide having ~~owns~~ a refractive index of about 2.1, and numbers of layers in said five cavities are about 160.

92 Claim 12 (new): The thin film filter as described in claim 11, wherein the film filter further comprises a coupling film, and the coupling film adjoins an adjacent cavity.

Claim 13 (new): The thin film filter as described in claim 12, wherein coupling film is made of a material having a relative low refractive index.

Claim 14 (new): The thin film filter as described in claim 13, wherein the low refractive index thin films comprise silicon dioxide (SiO_2) or aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3).
